

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 11, 17 and 18 are amended for clarification purposes only, and an Abstract is submitted. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully appreciate that the Office Action indicates that claims 3-10, 12-16 and 19-33 are allowed. Furthermore, Applicants appreciate the recommendations provided by the Examiner in the Office Action.

The Office Action indicates that the application does not contain an Abstract of the Disclosure as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b). Applicants submit an Abstract as an attachment to this Amendment. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b) are satisfied.

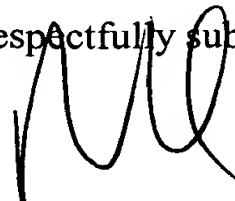
The Office Action objects to claims 1, 2, 11, 17 and 18 because of informalities. Applicants amend claims 1, 2, 11, 17 and 18 to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objections to these claims be withdrawn.

The Office Action objects to claims 2 and 18 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependant form. Applicants amend claims 2 and 18 into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 2 and 18 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-33 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RSE/dap

Attachment:
Abstract

Date: March 4, 2004

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